

Application Serial No. 09/742,308
Amendment after final dated December 14, 2004
Reply to final Office action of November 17, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for wrapping a food product in a wrapper comprising sheet of material; said a food product comprising at least two complementary parts that are capable of being coupled together along a coupling line, said wrapper comprising at least two complimentary parts which can be joined together along a respective connection line; said method comprising the steps of:

A) selecting one of the said parts of said food product;

B forming one part of at least two parts of the wrapper in at least two complementary parts which can be joined together along a respective connection line, said at least two complementary parts to being shaped and dimensioned to generally complement at least a portion an external shape of said product and introducing the said selected one part of the product into the formed, said one part of the wrapper so that at least part the said one part of the wrapper projects beyond the selected part of the product, then coupling, along said coupling line, the others of said at least two parts of said food product to said selected one part of said product, to form said food product, positioning the said product in the said wrapper, with said at least two complementary coupled parts of said food product being aligned; but uncoupled or coupled together substantially freely; along a said coupling line extending around a periphery of said food product with relative movement between said selected one part of said food product and said at least two parts of said food product being prevented by the projecting portion of said one part of said wrapper, then forming the other parts of the at least two parts of said wrapper along the respective said connection line to form said wrapper, so that the wrapper encloses the coupled food product, which formed wrapper is shaped and dimensioned to complement the shape and dimensions of the coupled food product such that said complementary parts of said food product are maintained coupled together substantially freely in the sense that the coupled parts can be substantially freely separated, and with said connection line extending around a periphery of once the wrapper is removed from enclosing said coupled product while such that at least a portion of said coupling line is offset with regard to the connection line so as to inhibit

~~relative sliding of the parts of said food product within said wrapper due to said offset, and~~
- ~~closing the said wrapper around the said product along the said respective connection line.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

- ~~selecting one of the said parts of the product,~~
- ~~forming one part of the two said parts of the wrapper corresponding thereto and introducing the said selected part of the product into the said one part of the wrapper so that at least part the said one part of the wrapper projects beyond the selected part of the product,~~
- ~~joining the other of the said two parts to the selected part along the said connection line substantially freely, with relative movement between the selected part and the other part being prevented by the projecting portion of the wrapper part, and~~
- forming at least one further part of the said wrapper, joining it to the said first one part of the wrapper along the respective connection line.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

- ~~forming a first part of the said wrapper defining the said respective connection line,~~
- ~~introducing the product into the said first part of the wrapper with the said parts of the product coupled together substantially freely with the said coupling line angularly offset relative to the said connection line, and~~
- closing the said wrapper around the said product at the respective connection line.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the said offset effect is achieved by forming at least one of the coupling line and the connection line as a wavy line.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 21, comprising the steps of:

- making the said one part of the wrapper generally concave so that the said projecting portion of the wrapper is substantially a collar able to surround and project from the said selected part of the product.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 51, comprising the steps of:

- ~~making the said product in two identical, complementary parts, and~~
- ~~making the wrapper in two parts as well, with one part of the wrapper being~~

Application Serial No. 09/742,308
Amendment after final dated December 14, 2004
Reply to final Office action of November 17, 2004

larger than the other part of the wrapper.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, comprising ~~the operations of~~ forming ~~the~~ said parts of the said wrapper as portions of sheet material having respective flanged edges which jointly define a respective connection line.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ said two wrapper parts are joined along their respective connection line in an operation selected from the group consisting of:

ultrasonic welding,
heat welding, and
gluing.

9-19. (Cancelled).